



**File Code:** 1950

**Date:** August 26, 2019

Dear Interested Parties:

The Pintler Ranger District of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (BDNF) is proposing to authorize the development of a spring source to provide clean water for livestock on the Stony Allotment. The spring source is located on National Forest System (NFS) Road 241 in Section 30, T.7N., R.16E. in the Upper Rock Creek Landscape, Stony Management Area.

### **Purpose and Need**

The Schively Pasture is located within the Stony Allotment which has steep open parks and sensitive riparian areas. Cattle typically graze along Stony Creek and on top of the open parks where topography is moderated. Cattle rarely graze the mid-slope areas of the pasture because of the steep hillsides and distance to water. Therefore, finding alternative water sources at mid-elevation is vital to the success of maximizing cattle distribution on Schively Ridge. In addition, water from the spring is causing damage to NFS Road 241. Diverting the water to a different location will reduce sediment erosion on the road.

### **Proposed Action**

The proposed action would be to construct a collection device by installing corrugated drainage pipe in the spring that is on the north side of NFS Road 241 (see attached map) by digging a trench with a mini-excavator. The trench would be approximately 20 feet long, 18 inches wide and 24 inches deep. The pipe would be buried along the road and covered with clean gravel, filter cloth and native vegetation. From the collection device, a trench approximately 100 feet long and 18 inches deep would be dug downhill from the spring, under NFS Road 241 and along an existing two track road. At this location, a livestock water trough, including a wildlife escape ramp, would be installed. A 1.5 inch poly pipe would be placed in the trench and connect the collection device to the water trough. Lastly, the trench would be refilled and the road repaired. A fence would be constructed around the spring source enclosing approximately 1/10<sup>th</sup> acre in order to protect it from livestock damage and road maintenance equipment. Reflectors will be placed on the fence making it highly visible for road users. The permittee will complete the work and the FS will supply the materials. This project is expected to be constructed in one day.

### **How to Comment**

Please share your comments, concerns, or ideas with Cameron Rasor, District Ranger, at the Pintler Ranger District, 88 Business Loop, Philipsburg, MT 59858. He can also be reached by phone at 406-859-3211, or by fax at 406-859-3689. If you prefer, send your comments electronically to [comments-northern-beaverhead-deerlodge@usda.gov](mailto:comments-northern-beaverhead-deerlodge@usda.gov) and type **Firewater Spring** in the subject line.



Your comments are welcome anytime, but will be most helpful if they are submitted by September 13, 2019. Comments in response to this solicitation, including names, postal and email addresses and phone numbers, will be considered part of the public record, and available for public review. If you do not respond to this letter you will receive no further information. However, you may always find information about this and other Forest projects on the web at **[www.fs.usda.gov/goto/bdnf/projects](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/bdnf/projects)** under the Forest Projects heading.

If you have specific questions regarding the proposals, please contact Alicia Goodman, Project Lead at 406-859-3211.

Sincerely,

*/s/Cameron L Rasor*

CHARLENE BUCHA  
District Ranger